

Morrell House
(Harpers Ferry National Historical Park)
Columbia & Fillmore Streets
Harpers Ferry
Jefferson County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-171

HABS
WVA
19-HARF
13-

PHOTOGRAPHS
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WRITTEN DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. WV-171

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MORRELL HOUSE

Location Storer College Campus, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Present Owner Storer College, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.*

Present Occupant None.

Present Use Tenament.

Brief Statement of Significance

This building was designed and erected in 1857-58 by the Federal Government, submitted by Henry W. Clowe, then Superintendent of the U. S. Armory at Harpers Ferry. It was intended to serve as a residence for one of the chief clerks of the Armory. Following the Civil War, the building was acquired by Storer College.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Morrell House was designed and erected in 1857-1858 by the Federal Government while Henry W. Clowe was Superintendent of the Armory at Harpers Ferry. It was intended to serve as a residence for one of the chief clerks of the Armory but may have been temporarily occupied by the Master Armorer as well.

During the Civil War, the house may have been commandeered for officer or troop occupation by both armies. Following the war the house was acquired by Storer College and was used for various school functions. In general, the building is basically rectangular, composed of a main part and a minor part flanked by porches along each side.

*See note at end of data.

Although no original plans, specifications, or old views have been discovered, the building appears to have been only slightly modified by the addition of storage spaces, bath rooms, and a kitchen. The original stair to the basement has been closed off and another added. At the present, it is not evident as to whether the porches on both sides of the minor part of the house are original. There are also the remains of a stone addition to the South of the building, which dates from the late 19th Century.

Prepared by H. H. Kissling
Historian, HFNM
August 28, 1958

The above compilation from the Historian's Files, Harpers Ferry National Monument, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; The Strange Story of Harpers Ferry, Joseph Barry, 1903, Thompson Brothers, Martinsburg, W. Va.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Morrell House is a wall bearing brick masonry building of two floors and a basement occupying a ground area of 2079 square feet. It is identical to the neighboring Brackett House and similar to the Master Armorer's House now located in the Harpers Ferry National Monument. The three houses were built about the same time; and, while the Master Armorer's House is at a more elaborate scale, the details are similar.

The Morrell House is sound and plumb. Foundation walls are 2'-0" thick and are of stone masonry in various combinations of coursed and dressed rubble and extend above grade to the first floor line and terminate in a water table. The brick wall is in common bond and 1'-2 1/2" thick. Chimneys are of brick and are large enough to accomodate fireplaces at all levels. They are topped with cement caps.

Exterior masonry openings appear to be the original with the exceptions of a window and a door on the East Elevation, and a window on the North Elevation.

The front entrance doorway is side and top lighted with a heavy wood pediment and light wood trim. The wood door has four panels. Other exterior doorways are top lighted. Double-hung wood sash of six-over-six lights are set into wood frames. Window sills are of dressed stone and sloped to drain. Shutters are missing but shutter dogs remain. A cast-iron balcony has been added to the North Elevation.

The main building has a hip roof covered with standing seam metal roofing. The minor part of the building has a gabled roof covered

with composition shingles. The brick cornice is composed of a bull-header dentil course, a course of headers and a course of stretchers both corbelled, and at the top one more header course further corbelled and faced with wood board. There are steel plates in the cornice at the corners of the building.

The first floor consists of two areas; the main part of the house in which four rooms flank the entrance hall and stairs, and the minor part of the house or appendage composed of the kitchen, a bath room, and stairs leading to the second floor and to the basement. Porches flank both sides of the appendage.

The second floor is also composed of two areas. In the main part, several rooms flank the stair and stairhall. One room has been partitioned so as to serve in part as a bath room. There are also two large and apparently original closets. The second floor of the appendage is divided into two spaces by the stair.

The stair in the main part of the house is original and is particularly interesting because of adjacent panelling. The unused basement stair, closed off to accommodate the appendage bathrooms, may be original while the other stairs are not.

The plastered walls and ceilings of the main part of the house appear to be original. One downstairs room has a plaster cornice, another has a plaster ceiling stripped with wood battens. The fireplaces are closed but the mantles remain and are typical of the times. Inside shutters have been added downstairs.

The finishes of the appendage or minor part of the house appear to be the results of recent renovations and consist of wallboard or sheet rock on the walls and ceilings except for a plaster ceiling in a room upstairs. Flooring downstairs is linoleum on wood while upstairs the floors are of new 2 1/2" wood strips.

The trim in the main part of the house is original and is similar to that in the other Harpers Ferry houses constructed by the government. Trim around the doors and windows include a pseudo-pediment; windows on the first floor have wood panelling beneath the sill. Doors are of wood and have four panels. The mantles are also typical and simply trimmed. Of the original hardware only shutter dogs remain. The trim in the appendage is not the original.

Fireplaces are closed and thimbles provided for stoves. The house is poorly lighted with a primitive electrical system with no evidence remaining of the original system.

The Morrell House is located on the Storer College Campus on a wooded bluff overlooking the Shenandoah River, and faces East.

Prepared by A. W. Franzen
Res. Arch., HFNH

F. Blair Reeves
Student Supv., HABS Team
September 3, 1958

Note: After the dissolution of Storer College, the building was acquired by the National Park Service, and currently (1976) serves as offices for The Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

ADDENDUM TO
MORRELL HOUSE
(Paymaster's Clerk's Quarters)
(Building 58)
Columbia and Fillmore Streets
Harper's Ferry National Historical Park
Jefferson County
West Virginia

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Administrative ID:

MORRELL HOUSE

(Paymaster's Clerk's Quarters) ~~Storer College~~

(Building 52)

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Location: Southeast corner of Columbia and Fillmore Streets, Camp Hill, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia.

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: latitude 39° 19' 16", longitude 77° 44' 16"

Present Owner/ National Park Service
Occupant: (Harpers Ferry National Historical Park)

Present Use: Administrative offices for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Significance: Originally constructed in 1857-58, the Morrell House was designed by Superintendent Henry W. Clowe for the Paymaster's Clerk. Originally, the Morrell House was identical to its neighbor, the residence built for the Superintendent's Clerk which was later dubbed the Brackett House. The Morrell House was one of four Armory officers' residences on Camp Hill granted in 1868 to Storer College, an early African-American college established during the Reconstruction era. After the building was transferred to the college, Rev. Alexander H. Morrell and his family were its first occupants. Rev. Morrell played an important role in the founding and early history of the college, so it was in his honor that the building became known as the Morrell House. In the decades following its incorporation into Storer College, a two-and-a-half-story stone masonry addition nearly doubled the size of the Morrell House. For over thirty years the building was used as a summer boarding house and hotel. Known as the Sparrows Inn and later as the Shenandoah Inn, the Morrell House catered to tourists and seasonal visitors who flocked to Camp Hill in Harpers Ferry around the turn of the century. A fire in 1942 virtually destroyed the stone addition, thus effectively returning the building to its original proportions. The Morrell House currently houses the main administrative offices for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1857-58. The Morrell House was constructed on property purchased by the United States from John Wager, Sr. on June 15, 1796 for the erection of the Federal Armory in Harpers Ferry. The site remained vacant and was not included in the 1852 sale of federal land in Harpers Ferry. As the Inspection Report for government lots dated July 20, 1852 noted, "The reservations of land between the quarters of the Commanding officer [Superintendent's House] and the Military Storekeeper [Paymaster's House] affords good lots for such quarters as may be necessary at a future time for the officers of the Armory. Which [sic] might be erected perhaps from the proceeds of the sales of public lots and houses" (Inspection Report of Harpers Ferry

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Armory, July 20, 1852, to Secretary of War, Conrad, National Archives, Reel 20, vol. 2, p. 123). The Paymaster's Clerk's House, which would later become known as the Morrell House, was one of three armory dwellings authorized by a joint resolution of Congress on April 23, 1856 to be funded by the proceeds from the 1852 sale of government lots. On June 28, \$18,000 was allocated for the erection of houses for the Superintendent's Clerk, the Paymaster's Clerk, and the Master Armorer (Craig to Clowe, June 28, 1856, Reel 19, vol. 9, p. 871).

On September 14, 1856, Colonel Henry K. Craig, the Inspector of the Armories of the Ordnance Department, noted in a letter to Secretary of War Jefferson Davis that "Two of the dwelling houses for Clerks that were authorized to be erected and paid for out of the proceeds of sale of Lots, will soon be commenced on the hill near the Armory..." (Craig to Secretary of War Davis, September 14, 1856, Photostats, v. 3, p. 62). In November 1857, the *Virginia Free Press* observed the progress of their construction:

On Fillmore Street, Camp Hill, a great change has been made, hollows have been filled, hills have been removed and the feet of pedestrians now tread this new made Street. Two splendid mansions are in progress of completion on this street, constructed by the Government at a cost of \$6,000 apiece, as quarters for the clerks employed in the Armory.

By the end of June 1858 the quarters for the Superintendent's Clerk (Brackett House) and the Paymaster's Clerk (Morrell House) were completed and ready for habitation (Clowe to Craig, April 3, 1858, Photostatic Collection, vol. 3, p. 83; Craig to Clowe, May 18, 1858, Reel 19, vol. 10, p. 972).

2. Architect: Armory Superintendent Henry W. Clowe drafted a set of plans for the residences of the Superintendent's Clerk, the Paymaster's Clerk, and the Master Armorer in July and August 1856. Clowe had been appointed superintendent in 1854, following the passage of legislation reinstating civilian superintendents in the federal armories. Clowe had been employed at the Armory since 1841 and prior to his appointment to the superintendency had held the position of master machinist since December 31, 1850. Although Clowe was expected, like all other superintendents at the Armory, to design any necessary new buildings for the Armory, he may have had less experience in this field than some of his predecessors, such as Major John Symington who had been trained as a military engineer at West Point. When Col. Craig returned the plans Clowe had drafted for the two clerk's houses, he questioned several aspects of Clowe's designs: "there appears to be a defect in making the width of the steps at the front entrance too small, and bringing the two middle columns too close together. In putting up the building, two of which for clerks may be commenced on the hill, it will be well to correct these defects" (Craig to Clowe, Sept. 5, 1856, Reel 19, vol. 9, p. 887).

3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: On November 26, 1858, Superintendent Clowe informed Colonel Henry K. Craig of the Ordnance Department that John E. P. Daingerfield, the Paymaster's Clerk, had moved into the former quarters of the master armorer, located on the south side of Shenandoah Street and west of High Street. When the new Master Armorer's residence was completed July 1859, next door to the old quarters on Shenandoah Street, Daingerfield moved into it in place of the Master Armorer Benjamin Mills. Clowe had

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designed the new Master Armorer's House at the same time as the two clerk's houses on Camp Hill. All three houses featured similar materials, details, and proportions, although the new Master Armorer's House was larger in plan than the two clerks' houses. However, Mills preferred to move into the Paymaster's Clerk's House (Morrell House) on Camp Hill because he was convinced that the Shenandoah Street site in Lower Town would be an unhealthy place for his family to live (Photostatic Coll., vol. 3, pp. 87-88). Mills and his family remained in the Camp Hill residence until he left the Armory in November 1859.

Mills was replaced by Armistead M. Ball who chose to live in the quarters on Shenandoah Street originally intended for the Master Armorer. Before Ball and his family could move into the Master Armorer's House, Daingerfield had to be relocated to the residence on Camp Hill originally intended for his use. However, Thomas Leiper Patterson, an engineer in charge of constructing the new Potomac dam, had moved into the Paymaster's Clerk's House (Morrell House) after it was vacated by Mills (Barbour to Craig, August 2, 1860, Reel 27, vol. 10, pp. 981-82). On August 4, 1860 the Secretary of War instructed Superintendent Alfred Barbour to remove Patterson from the house so that this exchange could be effected. Daingerfield, his wife Matilda, and their four children remained in what would later become known as Morrell House until the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861.

An inventory of government properties in Harpers Ferry drafted by Brigadier General Edward Ramsay on July 27, 1865 included a brief report on the condition of the building: "Dwelling House No. 30, Two story, brick, Pay Master's Clerk's Quarters - In bad condition, occupied for army purposes." Like most other government structures, the Paymaster's Clerk's House had been occupied by troops during the Civil War, and had subsequently suffered considerable damage. After the war, the former residences for Armory officers which had been erected on Camp Hill seem to have been used by the Freedmen's Bureau. According to a letter dated September 17, 1917 which Martha W.L. Smith, one of the first teachers sent to Harpers Ferry on the Shenandoah Mission which later evolved into the foundation of Storer College, sent to Storer President Henry T. McDonald, the Morrell House was occupied as late as 1867 by families who had been given refuge there by the Freedman's Bureau.

Following requests by Storer College supporters, Congress authorized the transfer of four buildings, including the former Paymaster's Clerk's House (Morrell House), to the college on December 3, 1868. A deed effecting this transfer from William W. Belknap Secretary of War to the Trustees of Storer College was issued on December 15, 1869 (Jefferson County, WV, Deed Book 4, p. 575). In 1870, Rev. Alexander H. Morrell and his family moved into the residence which would eventually be given their name.

In 1867 the Freewill Baptist Home Mission Board chose Rev. Morrell to join Nathan C. Brackett and several other teachers participating in the Shenandoah Mission. Brackett and Morrell had known each other for many years, as Rev. Morrell had been one of Brackett's childhood pastors. Like Brackett, Morrell had also previously been sent to the Shenandoah Valley near the end of the Civil War to minister to soldiers in the area. On his second journey to the Harpers Ferry area, this time accompanied by his wife and two younger children, Rev. Morrell was given the task of organizing area churches. The first church meeting took place on November 17, 1867

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in the crowded quarters of the Paymaster's House which at that time housed church and school meetings as well as living space for the Brackett and Morrell families and several teachers. Rev. Morrell was among the original incorporators of Storer College. According to a biography Brackett wrote about Rev. Morrell shortly after his death, "Bro. Morrell was an enthusiastic friend of higher education. He was constantly stimulating the young men and women to pursue a higher course of study." This interest in education became an increasingly important aspect of his work in Harpers Ferry and the surrounding region. However, health problems forced Rev. Morrell to return to Maine at the end of his first year in the Shenandoah Valley.

When the Morrells returned to Harpers Ferry in 1870, they were the first to occupy the former Paymaster's Clerk's House after it had been transferred to Storer College. As Nathan Brackett recalled, "Bro. Morrell's family had now a house of eleven rooms, which, however, they shared with from a dozen to twenty-seven students, until Myrtle Hall was completed in 1879." The construction of Myrtle Hall, the new girls' dormitory, must have provided rooms for these young women as the Census of 1880 only lists Rev. Morrell, his family and a servant in the Morrell House, as historian Mary Johnson has observed. Morrell probably continued to live here until he left Harpers Ferry in 1881. Although in the spring of 1885 he resigned from his pastorate in Chepachet, RI and returned to Harpers Ferry to work at Storer College, it is not known for sure if the Morrells once again resided in the same house until Rev. Morrell travelled to his son's house in Irvington, NJ where he died on December 24, 1885. Two days later, Rev. Morrell was buried in Harpers Ferry. At some point after Rev. Morrell's death, a nameplate was placed on the building identifying it as the "MORRELL HOUSE." This plaque is no longer displayed on the building, although its metal base is extant. However, a memorial to Rev. Morrell which is inscribed with the quote "an hath made one blood all nations of men" is still standing on the grounds of the nearby Curtis Freewill Baptist Church where it was erected shortly after his death.

Following the death of Rev. Morrell, the Morrell House was rented out by Storer College to be used as a boarding house for many years. On August 16, 1887, the *Spirit of Jefferson* reported that John McArthur was managing a boarding house in the Morrell House. McArthur seems to have remained there until early 1889, as indicated by a notice in the February 26th edition of the *Spirit of Jefferson* announcing that the Morrell House on Camp Hill, which usually accommodated about fifty guests each summer, was for rent.

A Mrs. Kolb of Washington must have responded to this advertisement, as the *Spirit of Jefferson* reported on May 7, 1889 that she would be renting the Morrell House that season. It is not known if Mrs. Kolb or another party rented the Morrell House the following summers, or if Storer College managed a boarding house there. In any case, the *Spirit of Jefferson* mentioned names of guests staying at the Morrell House in July 1894 and in August 1895. No further notices identified the parties who managed the boarding house until 1902 when the *Spirit of Jefferson* announced that Charles E. Roach would be leasing the Morrell House for the summer. From February 1899 until it burned to the ground in April 1902, Roach had owned and managed the Hotel Shenandoah on Loudoun Heights which had been constructed by Captain George W. Green and originally known as Green's Mountain House.

However, as Mary Johnson has suggested, the Shawen family (whose name seems to have been subject to endless misspellings) may have taken over managing a boarding house in the Morrell House by October 26, 1906, following a report in the *Harpers Ferry Times* that "Miss Shown" was ill at the Sparrows Inn. The Sanborn-Ferris Map of Harpers Ferry of the following year indicated the Sparrow's Inn was located in the Morrell House. Joseph O. Shawen and his sister Florence Shawen, who the *Farmers Advocate* noted in July 1910 was also a proficient artist, appear to have managed this summer boarding house. However, they may not have kept it open every season from the earliest mention of it in 1906 to its close in November 1919. Although "Joseph O. Showen" was reported by the *Farmers Advocate* to be the proprietor of the Sparrows Inn on July 10, 1910, three months earlier the same newspaper had mentioned that the "former proprietor of the Sparrows Inn" will reoccupy the hotel again after an absence of several years. To further complicate matters, Joseph's older sister Katherine M. Shawen was listed in the 1910 Census of Harpers Ferry as the head of household at the hotel. Kate may have also been active in the running of the hotel until her death which was reported in the *Farmers Advocate* on July 2, 1910.

A series of surviving rent receipts in the Storer College Binders of 1909-10 at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park from "Misses K. [Kate] and Florence Shawen" from June 1910 and later receipts that year from Ms. Florence Shawen further suggest that the Sparrows Inn was in the Morrell House. On October 25, 1919, the *Farmers Advocate* reported that "Mr. Shawn," the proprietor of Sparrows Inn on Camp Hill was selling furniture and would retire from business. According to this notice, he and his sister (Florence Shawen) had been keeping a summer hotel there for over ten years. Advertisements for a public sale of modern and antique furniture at the Sparrows Inn by Florence F. Shawen appeared in November in the *Spirit of Jefferson* and the *Farmers Advocate*. When Florence Shawen died in August 1921, her obituary in the *Farmers Advocate* noted that she had been the proprietress of the Sparrows Inn, a summer hotel in Harpers Ferry, for fourteen years.

A set of drawings from 1917 included in a microfilm reel of building plans in the Storer College Collection at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park documents the layout of the Morrell House during the Shawen family's tenure. The main entrance was accessed from the porch on the east facade of the original main building. The first floor of the main building contained a large entrance hall flanked by a sewing room and a bedroom with two large parlors opening off the hall. A second bedroom on the first floor could be reached through the southwest parlor, in the service wing of the original building. The second floor of the original building contained six bedrooms, four in the main building and two in the wing. The two-and-a-half-story addition extending from the south facade of the original building comprised an additional eight rooms.

The summer after the Sparrows Inn closed, Mrs. Lou Thompson rented the Morrell House for the summer of 1920, as the *Farmers Advocate* reported. However, the 1920 Census listed Louise Thompson's mother, Anna T. Dailey, as the keeper of the boarding house. Thompson and her mother appear to have run a summer hotel in the Morrell House called the Shenandoah Inn from May 1920 to October 1929. In her Founder's Day speech "Traditions and Memories," Mary Brackett Robinson, the daughter of Storer College founder and president Nathan Brackett,

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recalled that the Morrell House had later been known as the Shenandoah Inn. The earliest citation of Shenandoah Inn which has been located dates from July 3, 1920; it was a notice in the *Farmers Advocate* for a wedding reception at Thompson's summer hotel. An auction of furniture and equipment from the Shenandoah Inn was held on October 24, 1929, according to an announcement in the *Farmers Advocate*. This sale appears to have signalled an end to the era of summer boarding houses and hotels at the Morrell House.

From as early as 1926, the Trustees of Storer College had considered remodeling Morrell, Brackett, and Lockwood houses to provide additional dormitory space for the college. President Henry T. McDonald noted in a letter dated November 26, 1926 to Dr. Anthony that the Trustees had previously considered selling these three properties. This earlier plan may have helped to spur the closing of the Lockwood House, a hotel run by the Lovett family in the old Paymaster's House, in an attempt to regain control of college properties located between the main campus and Harper's Cemetery. However, the Shenandoah Inn at the Morrell House seems to have been unaffected by this scheme, at least until 1929. According to a letter sent to the Trustees on February 15, 1927, President McDonald had been hopeful that the General Board of Education's inspection of the campus might lead to the offer of funds for the renovation of Morrell, Lockwood, and Brackett, but such a donation apparently did not materialize.

In the meantime, the Morrell House seems to have been divided into apartments for Storer College faculty. In July 1937, the Trustees authorized Charles W. Wolfe and his wife Sarah M. Wolfe to move into a suite of rooms on the main floor. Charles Wolfe had been the librarian at Storer since November 1936, while Sarah Wolfe worked as assistant librarian starting in October 1938 and began teaching classes the following fall. A second flat in Morrell House was occupied by A. J. R. Schumaker and his wife beginning in the summer of 1941. Dr. Schumaker began teaching at Storer that fall.

Around the time the Schumakers moved into Morrell House, the possibility of renovating Morrell and Lockwood Houses to be used as dormitories for men was once again being discussed. As he had fifteen years earlier, President McDonald argued that renovating these existing buildings would be cheaper than erecting an entirely new dormitory. Writing to Storer College Trustee George B. Fraser on May 16, 1941, President McDonald described the current condition of Morrell House:

...situate [sic] two blocks from campus, a fine U. S. Govt. built mansion, which will accommodate about 40 students. Both [Morrell and Lockwood Houses] have attractive grounds and are supplied by city water, with further use of government built cisterns, which supply soft, filtered water in abundance. This building is in better general repair than is the Lockwood. A heating plant will be required here and some attention will need to be given to the wiring of the building.

Although Trustee Grant Hudson told President McDonald in a letter written on June 7, 1941 that he was not in favor of spending a lot of money on this proposed project, he might consider it in the case of the Morrell House, "which seems to be nearest to a building that ought to be kept up."

At least in the case of the Morrell House, this plan was never implemented. Near the end of October 1942, a fire forced the Wolfes, the Shumakers, the Clayton Robinson family, and a fourth unnamed family to evacuate the Morrell House. In its report of the fire on October 30, the *Farmers Advocate* noted that "the old Shenandoah Inn" was used as an apartment house owned by Storer College at the time of the fire. By the time fire fighters had arrived, the stone structure had almost entirely burned down. At an emergency meeting held the following month, the Board of Trustees voted not to restore the stone addition because it had been almost completely destroyed. The original section of the Morrell House, which had suffered relatively little damage during the fire, was to be rebuilt at a cost not to exceed \$1600. The Executive Committee also authorized the additional cost of installing new plumbing and electrical wiring. After the repair work was completed, the Wolfes apparently moved back into the Morrell House, as a letter from President McDonald to Grant Hudson on January 22, 1943 indicated they would.

At the end of the 1954-55 academic year, Storer College closed. The decision to close Storer College was announced on April 13, 1955 by acting president Rev. L. F. Terrell. At that time, it was hoped that the college might reopen at a later date under a readjusted program. The closing of Storer College seems to have been due to several factors. Following the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in 1954, the West Virginia legislature withdrew its usual appropriation to the college. Although acting president Rev. L. F. Terrell had reduced the school's indebtedness from \$50,000 to \$19,000 and almost tripled the enrollment in the three years he was at Storer, the cancellation of state funds was nonetheless a crippling blow to the college.

Storer College grounds and buildings were incorporated into the Harpers Ferry National Monument on July 14, 1960 under Public Law 655. The Morrell House currently houses the main administrative offices for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

4. Builder, contractor, supplier: Although the builder, contractor, and suppliers of materials for construction of the Morrell House have not been identified, Armory records indicate that the final cost of its construction exceeded its original appropriation of \$6,000 by \$820 due to the additional cost of transporting materials from Lower Town to the top of Camp Hill (Clowe to Craig, April 3, 1858, Photostat Collection, vol. 3, p. 83).

5. Original plans and construction: The original plans for the Morrell House were drafted by Armory Superintendent Henry W. Clowe in July 1856. Although the plans themselves have not been located, Colonel Craig claimed to have returned them to Clowe with a letter suggesting a couple of modifications which should be made to his plans on September 5, 1856 (Craig to Clowe, September 5, 1856, Reel 19, vol. 9, p. 887).

The original plans of Morrell House were identical to its neighbor, Brackett House, which had been constructed for the Superintendent's Clerk. Each brick masonry house comprised a two-story square main building and a smaller, rectangular two-story service wing which both had hipped roofs covered with slate. The main building was constructed on a center hall, double-pile plan, and it most likely had a portico surrounding its east entrance door. The brick service wing extended from the south side of the house and may have had one-story porches along both east

and west facades. This wing most likely contained a kitchen and pantry on the first floor and a servant's bedroom above which could be accessed by a narrow staircase. A full basement was constructed under the south wing, but it only extended under half of the main house.

6. Alterations and additions: Superintendent Alfred Barbour noted in his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860 that "The quarters of the master armorer, paymaster, and clerks, have received many additions to them, to render them comfortable, and the grounds which were very rough, have been graded and improved" (*Serial No. 1079*, p. 974). Most likely, Barbour's comments refer to the construction of outbuildings on the grounds, although evidence for these is contradictory.

According to the "Supplementary Notes" published in 1891 with Kate Anthony's history of Storer College, half of the Morrell House was added after the college acquired the building in 1868-69. However, the author does not explicitly state when this expansion was completed. An accompanying etching shows the Morrell House with a large, two-and-a-half-story addition and a small one-story block extending from its south facade. This addition must have been constructed at some point between 1870 when the Morrell family and several students moved into the original house's eleven rooms and the publication of Anthony's booklet in 1891. Most likely, the addition was constructed in the 1870s or 1880s, although it is difficult to date it precisely without uncovering additional documentation of this alteration. It is possible that the stone addition was constructed soon after the building was acquired by Storer College in order to provide accommodations for students before Myrtle Hall, a dormitory for young women, was completed in 1879. The addition comprised eight rooms on the first two floors, as each was constructed on a center-passage, double-pile plan. A plan of the first floor of the Morrell House drawn in 1917 indicates that a door was cut in the south facade of the original service wing to allow access from this wing to the northwest room on the first floor of the addition. This door may have been created when the addition was first constructed. Following later references to the addition in the early 1940s, it is clear that the two-and-a-half-story addition and the one-story projecting block had stone masonry walls. The one-story block may have housed an oven since it clearly had a chimney.

An early drawing of Morrell House is reproduced on a historical marker currently standing in front of the building. Although the caption on the sign dates the view to the early 1900s, it may actually be an earlier representation of the building. The east and north facades of the building are depicted in the drawing. At the time of the drawing, an elaborate porch existed linking the east portico to the stone addition on the south end of the original building. An elaborate balustrade runs along the porch around the flat deck which is located at the second-floor level of the main building and service wing. Although the photograph is difficult to read, it is likely that this upper level of the porch was accessible from the upper floor of the building. Architectural plans of the second floor from 1917 indicate that a door existed in the second floor of the service wing just south of the main building. At the time the earlier drawing was completed, this door may have allowed access to the upper porch deck.

By 1894, porches had been added along the north and east sides of the original main building, as can be seen on the Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Harpers Ferry. Since the porch

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depicted on the drawing does not extend across the north facade, it seems plausible that this drawing was completed prior to 1894. Sanborn maps from 1894, 1902, 1907, 1912, 1922, and 1933 all depict one-story porches on the north and east facades of the main building. The east porch is depicted in section in an architectural drawing of Morrell House dating from 1917. Above the slightly sloping porch roof on the east facade, the drawing indicates that there was a runway projecting out from the level of the second floor immediately above the porch roof. This runway may have comprised the remains of the upper porch deck depicted in the earlier drawing. The window above the entrance door was surmounted by a hood or awning and may have been replaced by narrow French doors or windows which opened onto the runway, although the drawing is unclear on this detail. The metal rods which supported the hood or awning are still visible on the Morrell House. The window on the north facade above the balcony with an ornamental cast iron balustrade may have received a similar treatment.

A west porch was depicted in the drawing of Morrell House published in Kate Anthony's history of Storer College. As in the drawing showing the east facade of the building, the west exterior wall of the stone addition was even with the west porch. It is likely that a porch existed before the addition was constructed since a door led from the south end of this porch into the stone addition.

Comparison of Sanborn maps of Harpers Ferry does help to identify subsequent changes to the structure. In 1902 a small, one-story outbuilding southwest of the ca. 1880s addition appeared on the Sanborn Map, at the edge of the steep slope running from the south end of the Morrell House lot to the Shenandoah River. Five years later, the one-story projection at the south end of the addition had expanded so that its west facade was even with the adjacent two-and-a-half-story addition. By 1912, the east end of this small structure had been similarly enlarged. The final Sanborn Map which was drawn of Harpers Ferry depicts the Morrell House exactly as it had appeared in 1912, except that it is no longer called Sparrows Inn or Shenandoah Inn, but is left unnamed.

A set of drawings from 1917 discovered among microfilm of building plans included in the Storer College Collection at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park featured a series of proposed alterations to the building. Two bathrooms were to be installed, one above the other at the north end of the west porch on the service wing. Two additional bathrooms were also to be created in the second floor of the main building between the two adjoining rooms along the west and east facades. These plans called for the installation of four indoor bathrooms, one on the first floor and three on the second floor. In addition, new interior partitions were to be installed in the main building and service wing of the original structure and new doors cut into existing interior walls to allow interior circulation between all three portions of the Morrell House, the main building, the old service wing, and the stone addition. The staircase between the first and second floors in the service wing was to be removed and a closet created in its place. The east porch on the original service wing was to be converted into a two-story structure with sleeping porches enclosed with casement windows on the upper level.

The alterations proposed in these drawings appear to have never been implemented as planned. The porches on the original service wing remained one-story in height and the system of

corridors linking the three sections of the Morrell House was not completed as planned. However, in April 1921, the *Farmers Advocate* reported that Louise Thompson had made important improvements to the Shenandoah Inn over the winter. Unfortunately the article did not specify the alterations this work entailed. Most likely, Thompson supervised interior renovations as the Sanborn Maps suggest that no major structural alterations were made to the Morrell House at this time. It is possible that indoor bathrooms were installed then, even if they were not created according to the 1917 plans.

The only other written documentation of alterations to the Morrell House which has been located was a letter dated August 25, 1941 in which President McDonald informed Grant Hudson that the flat in Morrell was done except for placing the range in it. It is not known exactly which suite of rooms President McDonald was referring to, other than that they were the rooms that the Shumakers presumably moved into after this renovation was completed. It is possible that this flat comprised the two floors of the service wing, but this theory remains pure speculation.

A fire in the Morrell House on October 29, 1942 almost completely destroyed the stone addition. The insurance settlement for this extensive damage amounted to \$8099.08. When the Board of Trustees called an emergency meeting on November 12, 1942 to discuss what was to be done to repair the building, the Trustees voted not to restore the stone addition. A maximum of \$1600 was allocated to rebuild the original brick portions of the Morrell House, including repainting and repapering. The Executive Committee also authorized additional funds for the installation of new plumbing and electric wiring. By November 14, Storer College was seeking bids for these repairs. In a letter dated January 22, 1943 to Grant Hudson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, President Henry McDonald noted that necessary repairs had been completed by the contractor. Painting, papering and plumbing work were in progress, and in a week it was thought that Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe could return to it. It is likely that these repairs included the installation of a window in the second-floor level of the south facade. This window may have been placed in an opening which formerly served as a door leading into the stone addition.

On May 7, 1943, the Building Committee of the Board of Trustees suggested tearing down the remains of the old stone walls in the Morrell House addition which lay in ruins from the 1942 fire. They also proposed painting the main house and the porch's tin roof. Although the Executive Committee once again discussed the possibility of tearing down the old stone walls on October 16 and suggested that the site be inspected during their next meeting, it is unclear whether these recommendations were actually implemented. The following year, Trustee Harry Meyers suggested to President McDonald that the stone and brick from the old walls of Morrell House be used in the construction of the proposed gymnasium. However, photographs taken by Jack Boucher in December 1958 for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) indicate that at least the foundations of these walls were not removed until after the building was acquired by the National Park Service in 1960.

Although it is difficult to specify which changes were made in the 1920s and which were made later, by comparing the 1917 drawings with HABS measured drawings of the Morrell House completed in August 1958, it is possible to trace several alterations which were made between 1917 and the closing of Storer College in 1955. Of course, none of these alterations reflect

changes which may have occurred in the stone addition since any traces of such renovations were destroyed in the 1942 fire. The only changes which seem to have occurred in the main building were the installation of a bathroom in the southeast corner of the northeast room and the creation of two large closets between the two rooms along the west facade. A small window was created in the east facade which lit the new bathroom on this floor. As the 1917 plans had proposed, a door was cut in the southwest room through the south wall through which three stairs led from the main building into the adjacent service wing.

A second bathroom was installed on the first floor of the old service wing, in a corner of the northeast room. The staircase in this section of the building was also removed at some point; this space on the first floor was then converted into a bathroom. A new staircase was then built near the center of the service wing with a closet underneath it. A small closet was also created adjacent to the old fireplace in the south exterior wall. The second-floor door in the east facade of the service wing was also replaced with a window at some point during this time period.

At some point between 1933 and 1958, the north and east porches along both sections of the original building were removed, perhaps following the fire in 1942. A small wood portico with turned posts was later erected at the east entrance. The elongated hinged doors or windows leading to the runway on the east facade and the balcony on the north facade of the main building were replaced with sash windows, perhaps at the same time that the porches were removed. The space below the sash windows was filled by two narrow wood panels.

After the National Park Service acquired the Morrell House in 1960, the remains of the stone walls in the addition were finally removed at some point between March 1963 (see NHF-2205) and Oct. 1974 (see NHF-3569). By October 1974, the east porch along the old service wing and the east entrance portico were reconstructed with the assistance of Harpers Ferry Job Corps. The wood panels below the window above the portico were also removed and filled with bricks. A photograph of the Morrell House taken in March 1963 (NHF-2303) indicates that the deck of the balcony on the north facade had badly deteriorated to the point where only the middle section remained. At some point, most likely when the east portico and porch were reconstructed, the balcony deck was repaired. The paint on the north facade under the line of the former porch may also have been removed at this time. Few alterations to the interior have been undertaken since 1958. However, a new partition wall was constructed with imitation wood paneling in the northwest room on the first floor to create a narrow mail room. The rear wall of the open closet under the stairs in the main entrance hall was also closed so that the southeast room in the main building is only accessible through the southwest room. A door was also cut in the partition wall between the two rooms on the second floor of the service wing.

By February 14, 1984, an air-conditioning system had been installed in the Morrell House. A system of ducts was installed in the interior of the building, with the main unit with cooling coils, motor assembly, and condensate plate installed in the excavated portion of the basement below the main building. Outdoor units were mounted on a precast concrete slab adjacent to the south facade of the building and enclosed by wooden lattice fence, while the second-floor indoor unit was suspended from the existing roof rafters.

B. Historical Context:

1. Early Development of Camp Hill:

By the time the Morrell House was constructed on Camp Hill in 1857-58, this elevated section of Harpers Ferry had become an increasingly desirable place to live. Most histories of pre-Civil War Harpers Ferry focus on the Lower Town section because it was the site of the Armory, John Brown's raid, and important early commercial development. Perhaps as importantly, Lower Town was the subject of the early evolution of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and therefore became the subject of much historical study. Recently, Camp Hill has begun to receive increased attention. Most notably, the *Cultural Landscape Report: Lower Town, Harpers Ferry* published in 1993 provides a useful account of the evolving relationship between the upper and lower sections of town. Although development of Camp Hill accelerated after the Civil War and the establishment of Storer College, its early history is nonetheless integral to the history of Harpers Ferry.

Perhaps the oldest landmark on Camp Hill is Harpers Cemetery which lies at the crest of the hill, just before it drops off in a steep slope leading down to Lower Town. Robert Harper, the early settler of Harpers Ferry, established a cemetery here in 1792. However, it was not until 1803 that John Wager, Jr. petitioned the government to officially stake out the boundaries of the cemetery. Harpers Cemetery boasted a breathtaking view through the gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet. It was likely this elevation which later helped to determine the location of residences for the superintendent and paymaster of the Armory. Aside from Harpers Cemetery, almost all of the surrounding land on the hill was owned by the federal government, at least until 1852.

Although the bluff above Lower Town was occasionally called Cemetery Hill, it was more commonly referred to as Camp Hill. Camp Hill took its name from an early incident in the history of the Armory in Harpers Ferry. In 1799, perceived threats of war from France spurred George Washington, as general of the Provisional Army, to deploy a small detachment of troops to Harpers Ferry to guard the Armory and Arsenal buildings. Under the command of Major General Charles C. Pickney, approximately 100 soldiers conscripted from two regiments of the U.S. Provisional Army were stationed above the Armory. This temporary work force established their encampment on the open hillside while they assisted with the construction of Armory buildings and lent a bonafide military air to the new establishment. Thereafter, the bluff overlooking Lower Town was known as Camp Hill.

Some of the earliest structures built on Camp Hill were dwelling houses for Armory workers. Although the Armory did construct a limited amount of housing for its workers, many more structures were erected by Armory workers and private individuals who had received at least tacit permission for these constructions from the superintendent. Particularly in the early days of the Armory under Superintendent James Stuhlefield, it was easier to allow workers to construct their own houses on government land and later reimburse them for their expenses than to obtain official authorization and necessary funds from the Ordnance Department. This practice continued into the 1830s. An extensive neighborhood of government-sponsored worker housing

thus developed on the slope of Camp Hill which was located just above the Musket Factory along the banks of the Potomac River.

Most of the early dwellings on Camp Hill built by Armory workers were wood frame structures. Perhaps the most elaborate and certainly the most prominently located house was erected by Captain John Hall in the 1820s just above Harper's Cemetery. Hall secured a contract with the government to construct the Rifle Factory on Hall's Island where he produced his interchangeable, breechloading rifles. During his residence on Camp Hill, Hall made numerous improvements to his property, including an addition measuring 16' x 24' in 1827 and washing room in 1832. According to the testimony of his son, Hall also created extensive gardens over nearly two acres of land which featured an orchard, grapevines, vegetable gardens, and rare flowers. Such elaborate gardens were only possible on Camp Hill because lots in Lower Town were limited in size. Although his elaborate landscaping was largely destroyed by the construction of the Paymaster's House on this site in 1847-49, Hall had effectively inaugurated the tradition of constructing residences for Armory officers on top of Camp Hill.

By the 1840s, most residential sites along the river had already been developed, including both property originally owned by the Wager family and land purchased by the federal government in 1796. When Robert Harper's heir John Wager, Sr., sold 118¼ acres to the government for the erection of the national armory and arsenal in Harpers Ferry, he exempted six acres along Shenandoah and High streets, known as the Wager Reservation, and ¾ acres near the ferry landing, called the Ferry Lot, from the sale. The terms of the agreement were negotiated with the assumption that the Wager family would be granted sole rights to commercial businesses on non-government land in Harpers Ferry. Thus, the Wager properties became the base of a thriving commercial district in Harpers Ferry which was subject to the virtual monopoly of the Wager family. Although the Wager monopoly began to crumble in 1836 when approximately one-third of their holdings were offered for public sale after James B. Wager was declared bankrupt, available land in Lower Town continued to be a scarce commodity.

The tradition of civilian superintendents at national armories was ended in 1841. Thereafter all superintendents were to come directly from the ranks of the Ordnance Department, until January 1855 when Henry Clowe became Superintendent. The year following this decision, Major John Symington was appointed superintendent of the Armory in Harpers Ferry. It was under Symington's supervision that a comprehensive architectural plan for the Armory was instituted which utilized Camp Hill as an important resource and an integral part of the town. In 1844, Symington drafted a detailed proposal for improvements to the Armory which encompassed all government property. Although initially new construction focused on the Musket and Rifle Factories, in 1846-47 Symington designed new residences for the paymaster and superintendent to be erected on the crest of Camp Hill.

The removal of Armory officers' residences to Camp Hill was an important symbolic statement. The hierarchy of the Armory, and by extension the town, was thereby literally inscribed into the very landscape of the town, with the highest ranking officials at the summit. Although in 1844 Symington had suggested that new dwellings for officers and inspectors be erected on High Street so that they "could have the Armory buildings always under view," their erection on Camp Hill

made such a relationship between administrator and factory even more dramatic. As an article in the *Virginia Free Press* on July 15, 1847 observed, Symington's "mansion" commanded a view over the entire public works. The new residences of the superintendent and paymaster provided a vantage point from which the Armory and town below could be both admired and surveyed. Certainly no neighboring dwellings featured architectural details like the porticos, pedimented door and window frames, and dressed stone foundations which were included in the paymaster's and superintendent's residences.

Problems with flooding and sanitation in Lower Town made Camp Hill an increasingly desirable place to live. As archeologist Jill Halchin observed in her history of the Upper Wager Block, by the mid-1840s concerns were mounting about the overcrowded and unhygienic conditions in Lower Town and the danger they posed to the safe and efficient operation of the Armory. As early as 1828, Superintendent Stubblefield had complained that the narrow alley along the armory canal was a fire hazard, but this problem was never resolved. By the time of Symington's tenure, the danger of fire from wood stables and "small shanties" along the canal had only increased. In addition, the rear areas of many lots were crowded with outbuildings and often had become veritable trash heaps: "here is received their wood and other supplies, and it is made a place of deposit of all the filth and offal made in the vicinity." Often trash was dumped directly into the Armory canal, a practice Symington insisted was one of the main causes of sickness among Armory workers. By constructing new dwellings on Camp Hill, local residents were able to at least distance themselves from such conditions.

The Lower Town area adjacent to the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers was also often subject to flooding. Virginius Island and the area between Shenandoah Street and the river lay directly in the flood plain of the Shenandoah River. In April 1852, Harpers Ferry was inundated by a flood which was the worst one to hit the town since the settlement was first founded. As the *Virginia Free Press* reported,

By Tuesday morning the streets of Harpers Ferry, had become channels for mighty rivers, and the second and third stories and house-tops, resting places for distressed inhabitants.... The destruction of property is beyond all description. Every house on Shenandoah and Potomac streets was almost entirely submerged — the water being six feet higher than at any other period within the recollection of man.

This disaster further encouraged growth on Camp Hill since buildings constructed at this elevation would not be prey to damage from future floods.

In 1851, Symington proposed to sell government properties both in Lower Town and on Camp Hill which were no longer needed by the government. He commissioned S. Howell Brown to prepare a map which carefully divided these areas into blocks and lots to create the first comprehensive street plan of the town. As a result of these efforts, Camp Hill was further integrated into the overall layout of Harpers Ferry through the network of roads formalized by Symington. However, the topography of the town prevented the imposition of a consistent grid except in certain sections such as the blocks flanking Fillmore Street where the Superintendent's and Paymaster's houses were located. Perhaps the difficulties Symington experienced

transporting materials to the top of Camp Hill for the construction of these houses helped to inspire the circulation system he designed. Two town squares were created on the hill: Union Square and Public Square, which featured a firehouse and town pump. The provision of such amenities to Camp Hill helped address the problem of providing water to residents outside of Lower Town.

Symington also attempted to solve the chronic shortage of housing for armory workers by selling government dwellings and many unused lots to local workers. The 1852 sale of government property also provided funds for the construction of new residences for two clerks and the master armorer. The clerks' houses were to be built on two lots located between the Superintendent's and Paymaster's Houses, both of which had been reserved from the 1852 sale. Most of the lots sold in Lower Town contained existing dwellings; many were purchased by Armory workers who inhabited them at the time of the sale. By contrast, undeveloped lots could still be found on Camp Hill. The sale of these lots further encouraged the development of the town in this direction which, as Symington had planned, would eventually become the primary residential area of Harpers Ferry. In the account of his travels by railroad in the mid-nineteenth century, Ele Bowen described the changing shape of the town as it crept up and around Camp Hill: "Harper's Ferry occupies a narrow belt of land winding around what is called Camp Hill, and a portion of the main village has even extended upon the side of it."

The fate of Morrell House when it was first erected further suggests that Camp Hill was increasingly seen as a desirable residential site. In November 1858, after construction of the residence for the paymaster's clerk (Morrell House) was completed, Superintendent Henry W. Clowe informed the Ordnance Department that the Master Armorer Benjamin Mills and the Paymaster's Clerk John E. P. Daingerfield had agreed to swap houses. Mills thus became the first resident of Morrell House while Daingerfield and his family moved into the old Master Armorer's House on Shenandoah Street. When the new Master Armorer's House was completed, Daingerfield moved next door to take up residence in the new building. According to Clowe, Mills preferred to move into the Morrell House (Paymaster's Clerk's House) on Camp Hill because he was convinced that the Shenandoah Street site in Lower Town would be an unhealthy place for his family to live. Mills threatened to leave the Armory and return with his family to Kentucky if this arrangement was not accepted. His vehemence in this matter suggests that by this time, the effects of industrial production and rapid commercial and residential expansion in Harpers Ferry had made their mark upon the landscape of Lower Town, in spite of the reforms instituted by Symington. To Mills, the open space and fresh air on Camp Hill seemed, in comparison, a suitably pastoral setting in which to raise a family.

Just a few years after the Morrell House was constructed, Lower Town was the site of two important events marking the approach and the beginning of the Civil War, namely the John Brown raid in 1859 and the destruction of Armory factories and Arsenal storehouses in 1861. However, over the course of the war, both Union and Confederate troops established their headquarters on Camp Hill. Although none of them remain, earthen fortifications encircled the crest of the hill, from the cliff overlooking the Shenandoah to the hill above the Potomac. The trees and vegetation which had lent the hill its picturesque and healthy quality were almost completely cleared by troops. Both land and buildings were harshly abused by shelling and canon

fire from Maryland and Loudoun Heights. In retrospect, the brief encampment of Pickney's forces in 1799 which gave Camp Hill its name foretold the strategic role this elevated section of Harpers Ferry would play over sixty years later.

2. Summer Boarding Houses and Tourism on Camp Hill:

When the surreys with the fringe on top met the trains, the drivers called out loud and clear the names of the available boarding houses: 'Hinkle, Dinkle, Grubb and Grimm - Hilltop, Lockwood, and Sparrows Inn.'

- long-time Harpers Ferry resident Arrah Mae Lehman, interviewed by H. H. Hunter, *Spirit of Jefferson*, June 11, 1981.

It took many years for Harpers Ferry to recover from the devastation the Civil War had caused. The industry which had supported the town, the federal armory and arsenal, had been destroyed, as had most of the town's other businesses. By the 1890s, attempts at economic recovery were finally beginning to take hold, and Harpers Ferry had become a thriving summer tourist destination and pastoral summer retreat, particularly for residents of Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The Morrell House and other Storer College buildings numbered among dozens of summer boarding and hotel business which flourished on Camp Hill in the decades surrounding the turn of the century.

According to the "Supplemental Notes" appended to Kate Anthony's history of Storer College, Dr. John Chickering was the first to suggest that the college might exploit the natural beauty of its campus by turning Storer College into a summer resort. Instead of letting the college buildings stand vacant during the summer, they might be used to generate additional income by opening them to summer boarders. The Paymaster's House, known at this time as Lockwood House, was the first Storer College building to be used as a summer boarding house beginning some time around the summer of 1876. In a letter dated March 14, 1878 to Mrs. Mosher, the editor of the Freewill Baptist Sunday School paper *The Myrtle* which sponsored a fund drive for the construction of the girls' dormitory at Storer, President Nathan C. Brackett mentioned that Lockwood House had been used as a summer boarding house "for a few years past." As the author of the "Supplemental Notes" recalled, the family of one of the college's teachers managed the Lockwood House the first summer it was opened: "Though the house was quite destitute of furniture, the rooms were large, airy, and kept clean. Visitors came and were charmed by the surroundings, pleased with the bearing of the students, — who waited on them, — and sent for their friends."

In the years to come, many other Storer College buildings functioned as summer boarding houses. As the same writer observed, the influx of seasonal residents to the Storer College campus benefitted both the college and the town of Harpers Ferry:

From year to year other buildings were fitted up and opened, till Camp Hill, which had previously been quite like a graveyard in the summer, has become the center of life in the town, having all available rooms filled to overflowing with an excellent class of summer boarders. Several

hundred guests come annually, and the number increases every year. This gives business to the town, and employment to a considerable number of the students, while the guests are sure of having intelligent, honest and faithful attendants.

Although summer boarders were first accepted as a means of raising money for the college, more profits may have been gained by the independent parties who rented Storer College buildings for use as seasonal hotels than ever actually accrued to the college. When Kate Anthony's article was published in 1891, the Trustees of the college were discussing the possibility of allowing students to run the summer resort so that all profits would not be enjoyed by outsiders, but would be divided between the school and the students. Although this plan was never completely implemented, an article in the *Storer Record* in March 1894 suggested that some Storer College students did gain temporary employment in various summer boarding houses on campus.

A more tenuous hope of Storer College officials also mentioned in the "Supplemental Notes" was that wealthy summer visitors might be so impressed by the work of the college that they would want to become its benefactors. Although major, direct monetary benefits may not have been reaped by the college, the summer resort at Storer College did serve as a promotional tool for the college and may have helped improve relations between the college and both the local and regional communities. The author of the "Supplemental Notes" even implied that the summer boarding houses had encouraged further development in the surrounding area because they had stimulated the sale of several lots from the Smallwood farm in Bolivar which the college had purchased in 1867. Concrete profits may not have matched early optimistic projections, but the summer resort at Storer College did produce some income for the college at the same time that it provided a limited number of students with practical business training and a small income which might allow them to continue their schooling at Storer. Several families who were either working at Storer College or trying to put their children through school there were also able to earn some money in the early seasons of summer boarding on campus.

This cheery portrait of summer boarding at Storer College is at least tempered by a controversy surrounding the college's attempt to turn its campus into a summer resort. On October 23, 1900, a letter from W. D. Bell was published in the *Spirit of Jefferson* accusing Storer College of discrimination because the campus was "half the year turned into a boarding house for whites only." Bell went on to claim that African-Americans were only welcome on campus as menial workers hired to wait on white boarders. Although Bell seems not to have been the only one to criticize Storer's practices in this regard, he was not exactly an impartial judge as he had recently been discharged from the teaching post he claimed to have held at Storer for over twenty years. Bell's accusations were similar to those that John Clifford had launched against Storer College the previous year. One of Clifford's main charges was that Nathan C. Brackett had instituted summer boarding at the college solely for the enjoyment of a white clientele.

A newspaper clipping in the Brackett, Newcomer, and McDonald Collection at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park presents a rather different story. James Harrison Robinson, also a teacher at Storer College, wrote this letter to the editor of *The Speaker* at an unknown date, although it probably dates from 1899 or 1900 as Robinson seems to be responding to charges which had been mounted against President Brackett and Storer College by Clifford and echoed

by Ball in those years. Robinson recounts that he and his wife had begun the effort to make Storer College a summer resort for African-Americans when they opened Lincoln Hall specifically for African-American summer boarders around twenty years before the article was written. According to Robinson, his wife refused to continue the project the following summer even though President Brackett urged them to do so because they had had such a meager response the first summer. Nonetheless, Robinson recounted numerous subsequent attempts to open both Lincoln Hall and Myrtle Hall to African-American boarders in the 1880s and 1890s. Several of these ventures failed, as demonstrated by the fact that white boarders were admitted to Myrtle Hall for a couple of summers during this period. However, Robinson notes several successful boarding seasons, including the eight years that William H. Bell opened Lincoln Hall to black boarders and the so-called Summitt House which J. Trinkle ran in Anthony Hall in 1899 when the response was so great that he later opened additional rooms in Myrtle Hall.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Robinson's testimony is echoed by Nathan Brackett. In a letter dated August 10, 1878 to Mrs. Mosher, Brackett mentioned that "the boys hall is nearly full of Washington borders, colored[,] so that with the workmen Camp Hill presents a very lively appearance." During the following decade, the *Pioneer Press* reported that Lincoln Hall was the largest boarding house catering to an African-American clientele, thus further supporting testimony by Brackett and Robinson. Guests in the summer of 1887 included John Smyth, the former minister to Liberia, and his family. In 1899, Brackett wrote a letter to the newspaper *New York Age*, in which he insisted that Storer College had never been directly responsible for summer boarding on campus, but had merely rented its buildings to other parties. That year, six Storer College buildings had all been rented to African-Americans. A more completely documented analysis of the accusations against Brackett and Storer College needs to be traced in fuller detail in order to more fully understand the history of summer boarding at the college. However, it is worth noting that on May 25, 1900, an investigation committee appointed by Storer College Trustees exonerated Brackett of all charges made against him by John Clifford.

The Lockwood House, as the Paymaster's House was known at this time, was one Storer College building which was managed by a family which included several children who were attending the college. Lockwood House may have been one of the summer boarding houses Clifford and Bell had in mind when formulating their attacks on the college since William and Sarah Lovett seem to have catered to an exclusively white clientele. Although the Paymaster's House had previously been open to summer boarders, the Lovett family took over its management in 1879. On November 4, 1879 the *Spirit of Jefferson* reported that the Secretary of War had visited the Lockwood House which was managed by "black caterer" William Lovett and Nathan C. Brackett. However, Brackett was probably only responsible for the Lockwood House in so far as he had approved its use as a boarding house.

Several of Sarah and William Lovett's children assisted with the operation of the Lockwood House. As Mary Brackett Robinson recalled, the Lockwood House was noted for the entertainment that the Lovetts provided their boarders: "Every evening throughout the season the family used to gather around the piano and entertain their guests and themselves with singing. The piano stood in the big hall and the porches were filled with appreciative listeners." According to Lovett descendent A. Mercer Daniel's article on his family's history, for several

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years, so many visitors wanted to stay at the Lockwood House in the late 1880s that Thomas S. Lovett and his wife Lavinia Holloway Lovett opened the neighboring Brackett House to accommodate the overflow. When Thomas and Lavinia later opened Hilltop House in 1890, Maggie Lovett Daniel and her husband Allen P. Daniel assisted Sarah Lovett with the daily operation of the hotel. By the late 1890s, the Lockwood House was such a successful operation that it remained open all year long in 1900. After Sarah Lovett died in 1911, the Daniels continued to operate the Lockwood House until it was permanently closed in 1926.

Although the Lockwood House seems to have functioned as a hotel and boarding house for more seasons than any other Storer College building, the Morrell House remained open a few years after Lockwood House had closed. Soon after the Lockwood House was first opened, the Morrell House was rented to John McArthur to house a summer boarding business. John McArthur was a carpenter and contractor who was later elected mayor of Bolivar in 1904. At the time that McArthur rented the Morrell House from Storer College in the late 1880s, he was a founding member with Storer President Nathan C. Brackett of the Harpers Ferry Building Association and the Harpers Ferry Board of Trade which was formed in 1888 with Brackett as its President. While John McArthur was credited with ownership of the boarding house, it was clearly Mary McArthur and her staff of servants who were largely responsible for the congenial atmosphere and excellent cuisine which was praised in local newspapers. On August 16, 1887, the *Spirit of Jefferson* described the culinary and entertainment offerings at the Morrell House:

Mrs. McArthur makes everyone feel at home. She has a corps of servants and three acres of vegetables & purest butter & milk from fresh alderneys. Spacious dining room cleared each Friday night for a 'hop' with Harpers Ferry youth joining. Prof. Kirby's violin is accompanied by Prof. Barrett on the organ.

Such fare was appreciated by boarders who flocked to the Morrell House from as far away as Washington, D.C., and North Carolina. It was, in fact, this same summer when the *Virginia Free Press* noted in July that Camp Hill had become an important summer resort with many Storer College buildings open for boarders including Lockwood, Brackett, Morrell, Franklin, and Robinson houses as well as Myrtle and Lincoln halls.

At the turn of the century, the Morrell House was used as a summer hotel for almost three decades, known first as the Sparrows Inn and later as the Shenandoah Inn. The Shawens were the first tenants to manage a summer boarding house at the Morrell House for more than a few seasons. Sparrows Inn, the name given to the Shawen family's business in the Morrell House, was in operation for more than a decade in the early years of the twentieth century. In contrast to the spare furnishings of other Storer College buildings used as summer boarding houses such as Lincoln Hall, Sparrows Inn featured a remarkable collection of antique furniture. After the Sparrows Inn closed in October 1919, Florence Shawen advertised the sale of its furnishings. From the items listed in a notice for this sale in the November 15, 1919 issue of the *Farmers Advocate*, the interior character of Sparrows Inn may be partially reconstructed. The parlor was furnished with mahogany pieces upholstered in red and green plush and a Brussels Velvet carpet which also covered both the entrance hall and the main staircase. Two rooms featured hand-carved mahogany and walnut bedroom furniture. The Sparrows Inn seems to have catered to a

wealthier clientele than the Washington, D.C., residents "of small means who needed inexpensive vacations for their families" for whom Mary Brackett Robinson claimed her father, President Brackett, had originally developed summer boarding in Storer College buildings.

Both Morrell and Lockwood houses changed significantly during the summer resort era at Storer College. The two-and-a-half-story stone addition to the Morrell House most likely was added to provide extra dormitory space even before the building was used as a summer boarding house. However, these additional rooms also made possible its conversion to a summer hotel since only a few boarders could have been accommodated in the original structure. In 1883, Lockwood added a Mansard roof with eight third-floor and two attic rooms to served a similar purpose. During the school year it provided temporary housing for female students while in the summer months it was hoped that the additional rooms for summer boarders would generate increased revenue which could be used to erect a new girls' dormitory, Myrtle (later Mosher) Hall. The rooms in both Morrell's stone addition and Lockwood's Mansard roof were smaller in size than those in the original structures in order to maximize the number of students or visitors who could be housed. The expansion of the summer boarding house business at Storer College was made possible in part by these significant architectural modifications.

Various architectural details and interior furnishings were added to transform these residences into appealing summer hotels. For example, the Mansard roof, a popular type of construction in the late nineteenth century, gave Lockwood House a more modern appearance which, it was hoped, would attract more boarders. A new outbuilding was also constructed south of the main building to house a larger kitchen in which James Lovett provided meals for summer residents. Long porches stretching around two sides of the buildings at both Morrell and Lockwood houses were depicted in plan in the 1894 Sanborn insurance maps of Harpers Ferry. These porches provided expansive, shaded outdoor spaces from which boarders could enjoy the summer breezes and picturesque scenery of Camp Hill. Porches, entrance halls, and interior parlors at both summer hotels also provided spaces for socializing and entertainment.

The turn of the century was the most successful period of the summer resort not only at Storer College, but also throughout the Camp Hill neighborhood. Near the end of the summer boarding season on September 26, 1900, the *Virginia Free Press* was able to report that "summer boarders still linger." That year, Harpers Ferry had seen its "most successful season as [a] summer resort" to date. This influx of summer residents brought relative economic prosperity to the town for the first time since its early boom years when the Armory was flourishing before the Civil War. Summer visitors to Harpers Ferry also spurred extensive development of the area, particularly on Camp Hill and in Bolivar. As Cathy Gilbert et al., have noted in their report on the cultural landscape of Lower Town, many former residences and tenements along Washington Street and on Camp Hill were converted in order to profit from the growing seasonal resort trade in Harpers Ferry. One such local entrepreneur was "Aunt Joe", an African-American restaurateur who the *Virginia Free Press* noted was still operating a restaurant and boarding house in her residence at the corner of High (also known as Washington) and Church streets in December 1921. The numerous summer boarding houses and hotels outside the confines of the Storer College campus included McDowell House, Bolivar Heights Hotel, Goodman Cottage, and Hilltop House.

Perhaps the most famous summer hotel in turn-of-the-century Harpers Ferry was Hilltop House, a black-owned business. Thomas and Lavinia Lovett opened the first incarnation of the Hilltop House in June 1890. The hotel was erected on Magazine Hill which had been named for the gunpowder storehouse constructed on this hill in 1803. Poised at the edge of the cliff overlooking the Potomac River just north of Camp Hill, the hotel featured a magnificent view of the Potomac and the Maryland shore which rivaled even the famous view from Jefferson's Rock on the opposite side of Camp Hill. Although it remained at the same site, Hilltop House was radically altered several times by both additions and as the result of several fires in the building, two of which resulted in the construction of entirely new buildings. By 1900, Hilltop House had received several additions, including a dance pavilion in which the popular annual Thanksgiving ball and various other social functions were held, and a four-story stone annex with slate roof which contained about thirty additional rooms. In April 1898, the *Spirit of Jefferson* announced that the new addition would include electric lights and bath tubs with running cold and hot water. At that time such amenities were available in only a few of the boarding houses and hotels in Harpers Ferry, so by comparison, Hilltop House was remarkably modern and luxurious. By 1904, Hilltop House had become so successful that a large dining room measuring approximately 40' x 100' was added and the Lovetts decided for the first time to keep the hotel open all winter, according to articles in the *Spirit of Jefferson* and the *Virginia Free Press* in May and December respectively. The following year, a steam-heating plant was installed to make the rooms more comfortable for winter guests.

In December 1912, the western portion of Hilltop House was destroyed in a fire. Luckily, around three-fourths of the hotel's contents were saved, according to the *Virginia Free Press*. Although the hotel was rebuilt and received summer guests the following season, a devastating fire in June 1919 completely destroyed the building and most of its furniture, as reported in the *Spirit of Jefferson* on June 10. The following month reconstruction of the building began, using the surviving remains of the old stone walls as its foundation. The third incarnation of Hilltop House was a massive three-and-a-half-story stone masonry building with two-story porches along its north and east facades. In the summer of 1925, a look-out tower was erected at the northeast corner of the building which gave the hotel an even more impressive facade while further exploiting the remarkable view from this site.

Like Hilltop House and other summer hotels in Harpers Ferry, the Morrell House benefitted from its picturesque location. When the *Farmers Advocate* announced the opening of Louise Thompson's Shenandoah Inn at the Morrell House on May 5, 1920, it emphasized the merits of its natural setting on Camp Hill:

One or a family seeking a retreat from the weary of toil and heat of the city will find no spot more conducive to comfort than this hostelry under the kindly ministrations of its proprietress. The Inn should have large summer patronage, being elevated with plenty of fresh air and shade trees and near river for sport on the water.

The success of the turn-of-the-century summer resort at Storer College and in Harpers Ferry generally was dependent in part on its pastoral landscape. Before the Civil War, Camp Hill had become a refuge for local residents from the noise and filth of the industrial section of Lower

Town. However, it was the active promotion of this topography which transformed the area into a resort town. By the end of the nineteenth century and in the early decades of the twentieth century, summer hotels on Camp Hill like the Shenandoah Inn were increasingly promoted as destinations for city dwellers wishing to escape from the continually accelerating pace of life in the modern city. The beautiful scenery also helped to create something of a seasonal artists' colony at Harpers Ferry. In the summer of 1918, the *Farmers Advocate* reported that the usual number of "disciples of the hrush" had travelled to Harpers Ferry to capture its scenery on canvas.

Although it certainly reached a crescendo at the turn of the century, tourism had played a role in the history of Harpers Ferry long before then. Beginning in the mid-1830s, the Baltimore & Ohio and Winchester & Potomac railroads brought travelers through Harpers Ferry who occasionally stopped to admire the view from the top of Jefferson's Rock on Camp Hill above the Shenandoah River. In the account of his travels by train which was published in 1855, Ele Bowen described his experiences in Harpers Ferry and the landmarks of note one might see in the town. Bowen cited Jefferson's Rock as "probably the first object, in point of celebrity, though not in real natural interest, that claims the attention of the stranger." This landmark was known as the site from which Jefferson had praised the natural beauty of the area which later became the town of Harpers Ferry in his *Notes on Virginia* which was published in 1784. Although the actual rock on which Jefferson supposedly carved his name had been rolled off the cliff in 1798 by a military officer who did not agree with Jefferson's politics, a new stone had subsequently been set in its place. By the time of Bowen's visit the substitute rock had been entirely covered with names carved into the stone by numerous visitors who had made pilgrimages to this site.

After the Civil War, tourism became the primary means of revitalizing the economy of Harpers Ferry. The Baltimore & Ohio (B & O) Railroad was instrumental in this phenomenon. The excursion trains which the B & O ran to Harpers Ferry brought many guests to town for a day or, as was common near the end of the nineteenth century, the whole summer. Promotional literature published by the railroad company featured landmarks and sites which travellers should be sure not to miss when their train reached Harpers Ferry. Many of these landmarks were post-war developments, largely inspired by John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry and the fate of the town during the Civil War. In addition to publicizing the sites of these events in their brochures, the B & O Railroad created new attractions in Harpers Ferry intended to lure more visitors onto its excursion route. In 1880, the B & O Railroad constructed Island Park, resort and amusement park, on an island in the Potomac River just below Magazine Hill which had previously been known as Byrne's Island. Fifteen years later, an obelisk monument to John Brown was erected by the B & O Railroad on the embankment near the new train depot in the approximate original location of the old engine house where John Brown had been captured in 1859. Whereas Island Park was a site of recreational escape for summer vacationers, the obelisk was a historical monument. Ultimately, both types of attractions were crucial to the promotion of Harpers Ferry as a tourist destination.

Near the end of the nineteenth century, the self-conscious development of tourism in Harpers Ferry was in full swing. In 1895, the same year that the B & O Railroad erected an obelisk in

its memory, the former Armory engine house was returned to Harpers Ferry, two years after it had been transported to Chicago and displayed at the Columbian Exposition. First installed at the Murphy Farm, John Brown's fort, as it had by then been dubbed, was moved to Storer College in 1910. Although the Armory engine house had received little notice at the World's Fair, Storer College later created its own monument out of the engine house by turning it into a museum prominently located in the center of campus. In 1897, the government placed five iron commemorative tablets near the obelisk in Lower Town which, as noted by Gilbert et al., were intended to inform travelers to Harpers Ferry about the capture of the town by Confederate troops in 1862. Local merchants also capitalized on the town's new identity as a tourist destination by selling postcards and stereographic views of the town to visitors. Like many comparable resort towns developed near the end of the nineteenth century, Harpers Ferry capitalized on the developing culture of leisure and tourism which was made possible by post-war expansion and the resulting economic boom as well as the greatly expanded network of railroads.

However, by 1924 local newspapers were no longer boasting about record number of guests in the hotels and boarding houses on Camp Hill. On July 26, the *Farmers Advocate* regretfully reported that business was slack in the summer boarding houses, but hopes still remained that the number of patrons would increase before the end of the summer. However, the author also admitted that a new trend had begun the previous summer to the effect that summer visitors' "old habit of remaining on one location for two or three months is vanishing." Several factors caused the previously booming tourist industry of Harpers Ferry to waver. As the *Farmers Advocate* observed, fewer people were interested in summer-long retreats. The advent of the automobile and subsequent decline in railroad travel made it easier for people to travel to several places during a single trip without having to conform to train schedules. The stock market crash in 1929 and the subsequent Depression also caused a sharp decline in seasonal tourism.

Floods in 1924 and 1936 caused extensive damage to the areas of Harpers Ferry closest to the riverbanks, including the commercial district along Shenandoah Street which both supported and augmented the hotel trade on Camp Hill. The flood of 1936 was the worst inundation in the town's history. Both the Bollman Bridge across the Potomac and the Shenandoah Bridge were swept away by floodwaters. The final blow came when these bridges were rebuilt a mile away from the center of Harpers Ferry on both ends of the town. Although Storer College President Henry T. McDonald and other local residents had vociferously argued against this decision, Harpers Ferry was effectively bypassed by these constructions. By the mid-1940s, its days as a thriving summer resort were difficult to imagine in the face of the deteriorating and abandoned buildings which lined the streets of Lower Town.

However, the creation of the Harpers Ferry National Monument in 1944 and the National Park Service's transformation of the site into Harpers Ferry National Historical Park over the past few decades has dramatically altered the town's landscape. Once again, tourism has become the economic base of Harpers Ferry. Today, the tradition of summer boarding houses on Camp Hill lives on in a transformed fashion through the bed and breakfast inns which have been established along Washington and Ridge Streets.

Fortunately, not all signs from the later chapters of the history of Harpers Ferry have been destroyed. Although most of the other summer hotels and boarding houses which comprised the turn-of-the-century summer resort at Harpers Ferry have long since vanished, the Hilltop House is still in operation. Although it has undergone subsequent alterations including the addition of modern rooms across the street from the historic structure, the Hilltop House Hotel has easily had the longest life of any hotel in Harpers Ferry. Today, Hilltop House stands as a vestige of this past which was irreparably erased from the structure of the Morrell House by the fire of 1942 and the subsequent restoration and rehabilitation of the building by the National Park Service.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: As originally constructed, the Morrell House was virtually identical to the neighboring Brackett House. These two houses which were designed for high-ranking clerks at the Armory are also similar in materials and design to the Master Armorer's House which was designed at the same time by Superintendent Henry W. Clowe. Comprising two floors and a partial basement, the residence was a brick masonry building divided into a main square section with a narrow service wing projecting from its south facade. Morrell House shares many characteristics with the series of five residences for Armory officers constructed immediately prior to the Civil War. All of these houses featured similar architectural details such as porticos and pedimented door and window frames.

2. Condition of Fabric: Following a fire in the building in October 1942, the Morrell House underwent extensive interior repairs. Additional exterior restoration work was completed after the National Park Service acquired the building in 1960. Currently, the condition of the building is good. However, earlier alterations and the National Park Service rehabilitation of the building have effectively covered up portions of the original structure, particularly in the interior of the building.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The Morrell House comprises a two-story, square main section constructed on a modified four-square plan with a small stairhall at the east entrance which measures approximately 40' 3 1/2" x 33' 8 1/2". The two-story service wing is narrower; its dimensions are approximately 25' 2" x 18' 8 1/2", or with the porches along its east and west facades, 25' 2" x 32'. A partial basement has been excavated under the entire service wing, but only extends over the south half of the main building.

2. Foundations: Above grade, the foundation walls are stone masonry in various combinations of coursed and dressed rubble. They extend above grade to the first floor line and terminate in a sloping stone water table. The portion of the foundations on the west facade of the service wing, include large, vertical slabs of shale which were painted white at some point.

On the south facade, a section of the foundation was replaced with roughcast rubble stone. The original east foundation wall of the service wing appears to have also been replaced. The water table was removed along this facade, and the wall rebuilt using roughcast rubble stone.

3. Walls: The brick walls are laid in common bond (5:1). Although much of it has been removed, traces of yellow paint remain on the west, north, and east facades of the Morrell House. The west exterior wall of the service wing is still painted yellow on the portion that extends from the deck and roof of the porch.

4. Structural system, framing: The Morrell House is a wall-bearing brick masonry building comprising two stories and a partial basement. The roof of the main building features a single king-post in the center. A longitudinal tie-beam spans the roof between the north and south walls of the main building. It is placed just east of the central partition wall which runs between the two fireplaces. Six trusses run between the king post, the four corners of the building and the ends of the longitudinal tie-beam. Each truss is attached to a brace. A large collar-beam is suspended from the middle of the trusses and supported by a series of struts. The floor joists run between the east and west exterior walls. The single-framed roof structure on the service wing is a modern construction which was probably erected after the 1942 fire.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The portico and two porches currently on the Morrell House were constructed by the National Park Service with the assistance of Harpers Ferry Job Corps by October 1974. The one-story wood portico at the east entrance to the main building is constructed on a raised wood deck mounted on brick foundations. One large stone slab in front of the portico deck functions as a step up to the deck. Four square pillars with capitals and two pilasters against the building support a plain cornice and sloping roof covered with metal sheeting.

One-story frame porches extend across the east and west facades of the service wing which are nearly identical in design. The east porch was constructed on existing roughcast rubble foundations which contain two casement windows with six lights. A wood deck was constructed between this foundation and attached to a wood beam running along the base of the brick wall where the water table had been removed. Seven wide steps lead from a concrete base to the center of the wood deck. The metal-covered wood porch roof with a plain cornice is supported by three square pillars with capitals and two similar pilasters against the exterior brick wall. A balustrade with plain square balusters capped by a rounded railing lines the perimeter of the porch and the staircase. The west porch is similar in appearance, although the deck is not attached to the exterior wall, but is supported instead by four posts set against the wall. The west porch deck seems to have been retained from the earlier porch which had survived the 1942 fire because the joists are composed of older, stained boards than those used in the east porch.

A narrow balcony with an ornamental cast iron railing is located on the north elevation, projecting from the second floor. A wood deck was reconstructed for this balcony around the same time the porches and portico on Morrell House were reconstructed by the National Park Service ca. 1974. The deck is constructed of short boards mounted on three joists and supported by four large ornamental cast iron brackets. This balcony was most likely part of the original

construction. The line of the old north porch is still visible on the north facade. It is unclear if this balcony was incorporated into that construction, or if the balcony was removed and later reinstalled.

6. Chimneys: The Morrell House has three chimneys, two in the main building and one in the service wing. Two brick chimneys with rectangular stacks topped by cement caps are located north and south of the hipped roof peak. A third chimney is located at the south end of the service wing. Taller than the other two chimneys, it is a rectangular, straight stack with a corbelled lip two brick courses thick.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: All four exterior doors on the upper stories are original except for one door in the east facade of the service wing. The east entrance, four-panelled door in the main building has side lights, top lights in a rectangular transom, and a large cut stone sill. It is surrounded by a pedimented frontispiece with pilasters which have a large groove running up the center.

Two doors in the service wing are almost identical, one on the west facade and the center door on the east facade. Both four-panelled doors have wood reveals, stone sills, and are surmounted by a rectangular transom with three lights. Each door also has remnants of smaller wood frames from which screen doors were mounted, although these do not appear to have been installed at the same time because the remaining pieces are different in each door. A third door was added on the first floor of the service wing at some point prior to 1917. It is located at the north end of the east facade. Although this door also has four panels, it is somewhat larger than the original door and has a wood sill. It used to be surmounted by a rectangular transom with three lights, but this was removed and replaced with a wood panel in which a vent was mounted when the air conditioning system was installed in the Morrell House by the National Park Service in 1984.

Three doors have been cut into the foundation walls. One door in the foundation of the main building in the southwest corner may be reached by a series of shale steps flanked by short roughcast stone walls creating a shallow stairwell. The board-and-batten door has a cement sill. Underneath the west porch, a small, board-and-batten door with a small four-light casement window provides access to the basement under the service wing. A third unpanelled wood door in the center of the east foundation walls of the service wing is located underneath the east porch. A door used to exist in the south foundation wall of the service wing, but it was sealed in 1984 with a plywood panel on which controls for the air conditioning system have been mounted.

b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung, wood sash windows of six over six lights are surmounted by jack arches and mounted above dressed stone sills which have been cut to allow rainwater to run off them. Although the windows on the first and second stories of the original building have the same form, they are slightly different in size. The first-floor windows in the main building are somewhat taller than those on the second floor.

The first-floor windows in the service wing are the same size as the second-floor windows in the main building, while the upper windows in the service wing are slightly smaller.

A casement window was added in the east facade on the second floor between the center and right-hand windows when a bathroom was installed on this floor. Although it is not definitively known when this window was added, it was most likely in the 1920s or 1930s. The window is a small French window with a jack arch and cement sill. Originally this window had four lights, although the upper left light has now contains a vent which was installed with the air conditioning system in 1984. The wood panels below the center window on the second floor of the east facade have been removed and filled with bricks, although the metal rods which used to support a hood or awning above this window are still visible. The second-floor window on the east facade of the service wing closest to the main building may have once had a door installed in this opening which opened onto an earlier porch deck at this level. A small area of bricks underneath this window appear to have been added later than the bricks in the surrounding wall. The center window above the balcony on the north facade has two wooden panels beneath it which are largely obscured by the balcony railing. Finally, the window in the south facade on first floor which has a wood sill must have been installed after the 1942 fire to replace a door in this space which once led to the stone addition.

Two casement windows with six lights and projecting stone sills are located in the basement foundation walls on the south half of the main building. The service wing also has two windows in the foundation walls on the east facade. They are double-hung sash with six over six lights and projecting stone sills.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The main portion of the building has a bipped roof meeting in a single point which is covered with standing seam metal roofing. The service wing has a gable roof which is covered with composition shingles. Originally, this section of the roof was also hipped similar to the roof on the service wing of the Brackett House. Most likely the gable roof was constructed after the fire in Morrell House in October 1942.

b. Cornice, eaves: The brick cornice is composed of course of dentils surmounted by two corbelled courses, one of headers and one of stretchers. At the top, an additional course of headers is faced with a wood board. Steel corner plates are set into the first course of headers at all corners of the building. Although the cornice originally lined the entire building, the dentils along the south facade were cut off when the stone addition was constructed, presumably in the 1880s.

The roof has no overhang, but it is lined with a 1" x 4" board to which the gutter is fastened. The shadow of a downspout which used to run diagonally across the west facade of the main building is still visible. However, this has been replaced by new downspouting which runs along the southeast corner of the service wing in addition to

the southwest and northwest corners of the main building.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. Basement: The basement was excavated under the south half of the main building and under the service wing and now houses mechanical systems, including the air conditioning system which was installed by the National Park Service in 1984. The portion of the basement under the main building is divided into two rooms separated by a fireplace in the middle and narrow partition walls. Under the service wing, the basement plan was altered to allow the installation of mechanical systems. The staircases in the center and along the northeast corner were removed. A new partition wall and storage shelves were installed in this area, dividing the space into two rooms.

b. First floor: The first floor of the main building was originally divided into five rooms, three along the east facade with the square entrance hall in the center off the east portico and two larger rooms along the west facade. The west rooms, which used to have folding doors in their shared partition wall, contain two fireplaces which are no longer in use. A closet is located in the entrance hall under the main staircase leading to the second floor. At some point after the National Park Service began using the Morrell House for administrative offices, a partition wall was installed in the northwest room on the first floor to create a narrow mail room at the end of the entrance hall.

The service wing comprises three rooms with a staircase leading to the second floor in the center of the wing. A door in the southwest room leads to a small hall with a small closet and built-in cabinet above. A long, narrow bathroom with an enclosed shower is located in the northeast corner of the service wing. A large room fills the south half of the wing. A small doorway in the northeast corner of the room leads to a closet under the staircase and a door into the bathroom. This portion of the building is flanked by porches along its west and east facades.

c. Second floor: The second floor was originally constructed on the same plan as the first floor. However, two large closets have been added between the west rooms which have a small doorway joining them. The closet against the exterior wall contains a small sink. A small closet was also built between the fireplace and the south wall which serves the southeast room. A sixth room was also created in the 1920s or 1930s which housed a bathroom between the stairhall and the northeast room. A balcony is located on the north facade which may only be accessed through a window in the middle of the balcony. The second floor of the service wing is divided in half into two rooms, north and south, by a central staircase leading to the first floor. A closet is located between the fireplace and the wall in the southwest corner of the wing.

2. Stairways: The Morrell House has two staircases, one in the entrance hall of the main building and the second in the center of the service wing. Both staircases lead only from the first

to the second floors because the staircases which previously existed in the basement have all been removed. The staircase in the main building is original, although it has been carpeted. It is a dog-leg staircase without intermediate landing in a run of twenty-one steps. An octagonal newel post sits at the base of a balustrade with a rounded railing, while two shorter, chamfered newel posts cap the balustrade at the top of the stairs. The balustrade continues on the second floor along both sides of the stairwell. One section of this balustrade is shielded by a short section of grooved wood paneling. In the service wing, a modern, carpeted staircase leads to the south room in the second floor in a run of seventeen steps which turns 90° at the top. A rounded, wood railing is attached to the wall of the stairwell.

3. Flooring: Carpet has been laid throughout the upper two floors of the Morrell House during the National Park Service rehabilitation of the building. The basement floors are concrete.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceiling of the original building were plaster. A suspended acoustical tile ceiling has been installed on the first floor by the National Park Service. The northwest room on the first floor of the main building has a plaster cornice which is badly damaged in the southwest corner of the room. A similar cornice also exists in the entrance hall, but it is partially covered up by the acoustical tile ceiling. The north rooms in the main building also have molded wood baseboards, whereas the baseboards in the rest of the building are simple wood boards with angled tops which are often obscured by baseboard heaters. The partition wall which was installed in the northwest room on the first floor during the National Park Service rehabilitation of the building was constructed of imitation wood paneling. Sheet rock was used in the other non-original partition walls.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Like the main entrance door, the four-paneled doors opening off the entrance hall on the first floor and the door leading to the service wing have pedimented frontispieces with pilasters which have a large groove running up the center. The two doors between the east and west rooms on the partition walls flanking the fireplaces in the main building are smaller doors with six panels and small, plain pediments. Four-panelled doors with plain pediments are found on the second floor of the main building, except for the door which was added when the bathroom was installed in the northeast room. Although it is also a four-panelled door, it is surmounted by a rectangular transom window with two lights and a simple pediment. In the service wing, all of the doorways have plain frames. Most of the doors have six panels, although one door to the bathroom on the first floor is two-panelled, and the two closets on this level have board-and-batten doors. Several of the doorways in the service wing serve only as passageways and have no doors.

b. Windows: In a design similar to the interior door frames, the first-floor windows in the main building have large, plain pediments supported by grooved pilasters which extend to the floor and enclose two wood panels below each window opening. These windows have wood sills and narrow, wood splayed reveals. The second-floor windows in the main building have plain pediments, simple wood sills, and narrow, wood splayed

reveals. The window in the northeast corner of the northwest room has two small wood panels below the window openings which are hatched and latched. The small French window in the second-floor bathroom at the top of the staircase has a plain pediment and deep wood reveals and sill. In the service wing, all of the windows have plain wood frames and sills, although the window frames on the first floor have plain pediments.

6. Decorative features and trim: Four fireplaces exist in the main building, one in each of the northwest and southwest rooms on the first and second floors. All four fireplaces are brick with brick hearths and are surmounted by heavy, plain wood mantelpieces. The fireplaces which originally existed in the service wing have been covered over with sheet rock walls. The few surviving louvered shutters mounted in the jambs of the large first-floor windows were removed by the National Park Service during the rehabilitation of the building.

7. Hardware: Although the shutters were long ago removed, shutter dogs remain on most of the second floor windows. Some of the first-floor window frames still have traces of hinges from shutters, but there are no shutterdogs extant at this level. The iron base of a plaque which used to read "MORRELL HOUSE" is still mounted to the right of the main entrance door, but the sign itself has been removed.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The fireplaces in the Morrell House have been closed, although only the fireplaces in the service wing have been filled up. The National Park Service interior rehabilitation of the structure effectively erased the traces of thimbles for stoves which were installed at some point during Storer College's early tenure of the building noted in the 1958 HABS report on the structure. Air conditioning and heating systems have been installed in the Morrell House by the National Park Service. Both ceiling vents and baseboard heaters exist throughout the building.

b. Lighting: When the first HABS report on the Morrell House was written in 1958, a primitive lighting system existed which probably was installed after the 1942 fire. This system was updated by the National Park Service before its administrative offices were moved into the building. Fluorescent lights have been installed throughout the first and second floors.

c. Plumbing: Plumbing systems have been installed in Morrell House which has two bathrooms, one of which includes a shower, and a sink in a closet between the northwest and southwest rooms on the second floor of the main building.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: The Morrell House is located on a wooded bluff which slopes sharply south of the building down to the Shenandoah River. Before the house was erected, Fillmore Street had just been graded and improved. In his annual report dated June 30, 1858, Superintendent Clowe noted that improvements had also been made to the grounds of the Morrell

and Brackett Houses: "121 perches of dry wall and 132 yards of earth excavation, for a drain, [had been] built on the dividing line, or ravine, separating the clerks' quarters on Camp Hill." In total, 2193 yards had been excavated and filled to improve the grounds surrounding these two residences (*Serial No. 976*, p. 1319). By the end of June 1859, the grounds of the Morrell House and its neighbor the Brackett House had been enclosed with fencing constructed of locust posts, oak string pieces, and yellow pine paling (*Serial No. 1079*, p. 974).

2. Outbuildings: Armory records contradict one another regarding outbuildings on the grounds of the Morrell House. In a letter to Col. Craig dated September 17, 1858, Clowe submitted a proposal for an additional \$1500 to be used to construct a rain water cistern (\$200), whitewash fences on the grounds (\$75), and erect three stables and two smoke/storage houses for the residences of the paymaster, the master armorer, and two clerks (\$1225) (Clowe to Craig, September 27, 1858, Photostat Collection, vol. 3, p. 84). In his historical report on the Morrell House, former Park Historian Philip Smith claimed that Craig did not approve these expenditures in 1858. Smith suggested that funds were allocated for these outbuildings in 1860, but they were not completed before the Civil War broke out in 1861.

In his three volume work charting the physical history of armory buildings in Harpers Ferry completed over twenty years after Smith's report, former Park Historian Charles Snell presented evidence that outbuildings had in fact been constructed on the grounds of the Morrell House. In his annual report dated June 30, 1859, Superintendent Alfred M. Barbour noted that both "a new brick outhouse, on a stone foundation, ... and a board stable" had been erected on the grounds of the Morrell House. Both of these buildings were covered with slate roofs. A rain-water cistern had also been constructed on this site (*Serial No. 1025*, p. 1114).

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings:

Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, microfilm collection:
"Storer College Alterations and Additions" (Morrell House), December 22, 1917.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park collection, Architect's files, Brackett House:
Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Morrell House (WV-171), Measured drawings (14 sheets), August 1958.

B. Early views:

Photographs and Prints, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Collection, U.S. National Park Service

"Morrell Hotel," undated and untitled drawing currently displayed at the end of the sidewalk leading to the Morrell House, ca. 1880s?

HF-282	Looking towards the Gap from Camp Hill, Harpers Ferry, 1915
HF-288a	Aerial view of Harpers Ferry, Camp Hill and Lower Town, 1932
HF-292	Aerial view of Camp Hill at Harpers Ferry, 1932
NHF-1780	Morrell House, detail of east entrance door, 1957-58
NHF-1781	Morrell House, detail of ruined walls at rear, 1957-58
NHF-1788	Morrell House, detail of wall, 1958
NHF-1789	Morrell House, detail, 1958
NHF-2141	Morrell House, east facade, October 1962
NHF-2205	Morrell House, March 1963
NHF-2302	Morrell House, west facade, May 1963
NHF-2303	Morrell House, east facade, May 1963
NHF-3569	Morrell House, east facade, Fall 1974
NHF-3463	Morrell House, east and north facades, October 1974
NHF-3488	Morrell House, east and north facade detail, January 1975
NHF-3529	Morrell House, 1975
NHF-3712	Morrell House, west facade, March-April 1978

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D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

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E. Supplemental Material:

"Storer College Alterations and Additions" (Morrell House), December 22, 1917, from Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, microfilm collection:

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was sponsored by the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and the National Park Service, Donald W. Campbell, Superintendent, under the direction of Peter Dessauer, Park Architect. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, under the direction of Paul Dolinsky, Chief of HABS; with the assistance of HABS Architect Frederick J. Lindstrom and HABS Historian Catherine C. Lavoie. The first phase of the project was completed during the summer of 1994. The second phase of the project was completed during the summer of 1995 at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park by project supervisor Elizabeth Loudon (Texas Institute of Technology) and field foreman Mary Ellen Strain (Florida State University) with architecture technicians Jennifer Andrews (University of Arizona), Árpád Furu (Budapest Technical University, through US-ICOMOS), Burke Greenwood (Miami University), Randy Plaisance (Tulane University), and Barbara Stein (Harvard University). The project historian was Sheila R. Crane (Northwestern University). Chief Park Historian Bruce Noble and Project Historians Patricia Chickering, Michael Jenkins, and Mary Johnson provided invaluable assistance and a useful orientation to the historical resources of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The park's historical database, which has been developed by historians working under a cooperative agreement with the University of Maryland, has been an essential resource for all historical reports produced for this project. Photographs were produced by Jack E. Boucher, HABS photographer.

ADDENDUM TO:
MORRELL HOUSE
(Paymaster's Clerk's Quarters)
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Columbia & Fillmore Streets
Harpers Ferry
Jefferson County
West Virginia

HABS WV-171
WVA, 19-HARF, 13-

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